

WYOMING STATE FAIR

Advisory Committee Meeting

July 7, 2005

Chairperson Tammy Barkhurst welcomed everyone on the conference call and thanked Kenny Taylor for conducting the Spring meeting in Tammy's absence. Those present for the conference call were: Tammy Barkhurst, Dudley Booth, Johnathan Despain, Howard Gernant, Ron Pulse, Kelli Tavegie, and Kenny Taylor. Guests were Jim Schwartz, WDA Deputy Director and Dick Hiser, Open Beef Superintendent. Others present were Barney Cosner, WSF Director, Vicki Rupert, WSF Assistant Director, and Darlene Hageman, WSF Staff. Advisory Committee members not available were: Virginia Gardner, Janet Givens, and Jim Schiermiester.

Director Cosner updated everyone on the status of the Livestock Pavilion from both the construction and demolition side, noting that there has been all kinds of speculation regarding the cause of the building collapse. It has been verified that there was no human tampering. The engineers have investigated the structural integrity and design of the building. There may have been some flaws in the welding. The weather from noon to 2 p.m. on June 11, 2005, could have compromised the building—perhaps a microburst. Mother Nature was certainly a factor but everyone is thankful that no one was injured or hurt as a result of this collapse. As a result of the investigation, it has been determined that some things could have been done differently to avoid this type of situation and the methodology will be changed when the Livestock Pavilion is re-constructed.

Director Cosner asked for Committee members to share any rumors that they had heard and reiterated that the possibility of a disgruntled Montana Steel employee having tampered with cables, bolts, etc., was thoroughly investigated and found to have no basis. The possible lack of adequate cement in the concrete for the footers was also not a factor/cause—the footer pads are 9 foot square. An x-ray machine may be brought in to examine the foundation to determine what areas were compromised by the collapse. It is fairly definite that the footers on the north end will be saved. As of today, it was announced that the replacement building is on its way and should be here by the first part of September, if not earlier, and construction should be completed by November/mid-December depending on the weather.

The collapsed building is being removed by the same company that demolished the old facilities and the steel is being cut up and loaded on to trucks to be taken to Denver for recycling as scrap metal. As soon as demolition and site work are completed, an eight (8) foot construction fence will be erected around the site and it will be off-limits (no access) during State Fair.

As of today, the Multi-Purpose Swine Show Center is totally enclosed. Various configurations are being considered for use of the Show Center this year for more than just swine shows. The use of new pens is being considered as no outdoor show rings will

be available. Hogs/sheep will show in the Swine Show Center ring; goats and open sheep will show in the Open Sheep Barn Rings.

Work is progressing diligently in getting washracks installed in the south end of the Multi-Purpose Show Center. Currently, there are no cattle washracks except the three (3) spaces in the Dairy Barn; however, the area between the Swine Center and the Livestock Pavilion may be available for cattle washing. It is being proposed to create another set of washracks east of the Goat Barn.

Discussion followed on possible locations for Junior Beef Cattle and Open Beef Cattle. Three large tents will be placed in a u-shape in the grassy area along the Midway. Temporary power is being purchased from PP& L for this area and even though there will be more power available at this location than was available in all of the old barns, exhibitors will need to be limited on the number of fans and other fitting equipment. It was initially proposed to house the Junior Beef Cattle in the Dairy Barn and the Dairy Annex and to house the Open Beef Cattle in the tent area. The scales and hip height chute will be located in the south end of the Dairy Barn where the Milking Parlor and stanchion were previously located. State Fair has locked in about \$10,000 worth of sand to be used as bedding material—no additional flammable material will be allowed inside facilities. Tents will be utilized to handle all of the shows as presented in the State Fair Premium List.

Dick Hiser asked about tent capacity (120 head per tent) and also availability of water in the proposed tent area. Water will be available but not abundant. The tie-outs by the river are still in place and that space along the river will be used more for tie-outs this year than in the past. Fifty (50) new tie-out panels will be placed on the east side of the tents. Steve Scott of Powell (Park County) has also volunteered the use of his 50 x 100 ft. tent following the Park County Fair. A question was asked about the possibility of providing evaporative coolers in the tents. It was noted that care needs to be taken when providing coolers in any one area without providing for all and consideration needs to be given to the amount of power that would be needed.

Various pros and cons were brought up regarding the placement of Open Beef Cattle in the tent area and Junior Beef Cattle in the Dairy Barn and Annex or vice versa. In an effort to keep Open Beef Cattle “packaged” and Junior Beef Cattle “packaged”, as well as to provide additional flexibility for in and out movement of the Open Beef Cattle, it was agreed by all that the Open Beef Cattle should be housed in the Dairy Barn and Annex with all of the Junior Beef Cattle in the tent area. There will need to be LOTS OF COOPERATION from all parties during the 8-day stretch of the 2005 Wyoming State Fair, and the importance of educating the exhibitors about the changes and procedures before they arrive was emphasized.

Dick Hiser recommended that a letter be sent from State Fair to all previous Open Class Beef exhibitors to let them know what happened to the new Livestock Pavilion and to outline the procedure for releasing the various breeds following their show rather than delaying for 24 hours. All Open Class Beef exhibitors should be notified that it will be

their option as to whether or not their livestock stay at the tie-outs during the time they are here. All exhibitors are also to be notified that NO GENERATORS will be allowed. Tammy Barkhurst emphasized again that there should be no surprises. Educating the exhibitors is the key.

Director Cosner noted that there should be no conflict between Open and Junior Beef exhibitors with having the scale and hip height chute in the Dairy Barn. The processing day is Tuesday and the first Open Beef Show is not until Wednesday afternoon. The early Open Beef arrivals could be stalled in the Annex if needed.

Director Cosner stated that he still needs nominations from Johnathan Despain before he can appoint the members of the Tail Dock Inspection Committee.

It has been estimated that an additional \$25,000.00 in expenditures will be necessary due to the adjustments necessitated by the collapse of the new building .

Advisory Committee members are encouraged to arrive at State Fair on Saturday, August 13, or Sunday, August 14, if possible. Otherwise they are advised not to change their plans from previous years.

There being no further business, the Conference Call ended at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Hageman